

# The Prayer of Jabez



*1 Chronicles 4:9-10*

THE BREAKTHROUGH SERIES

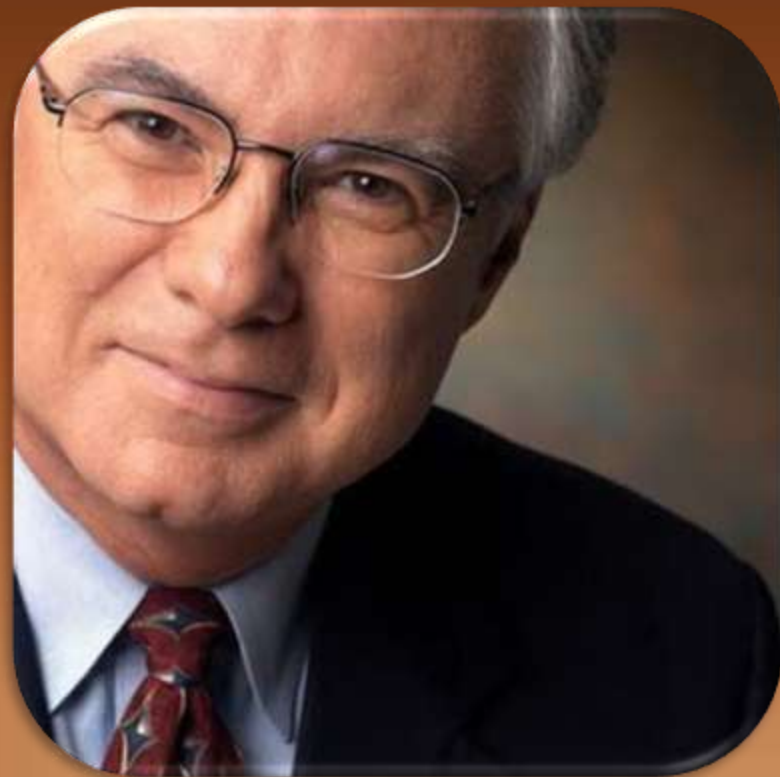
LITTLE BOOKS | BIG CHANGE

*The*  
**PRAYER**  
*of* **JABEZ**

*How to Get God to Bless Your Life*



DR. BRUCE H.  
WILKINSON

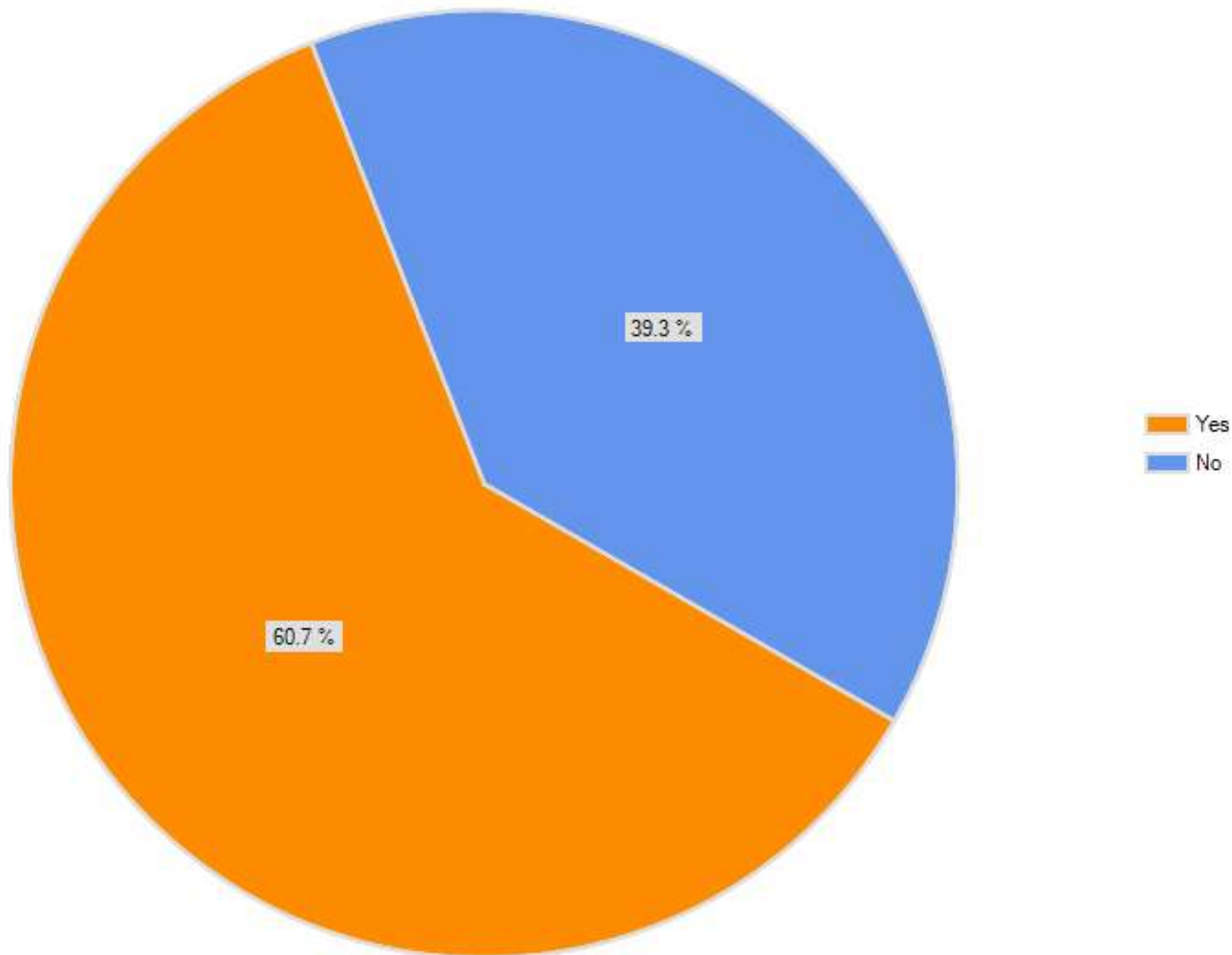


# *1 Chronicles 4:10 NIV*

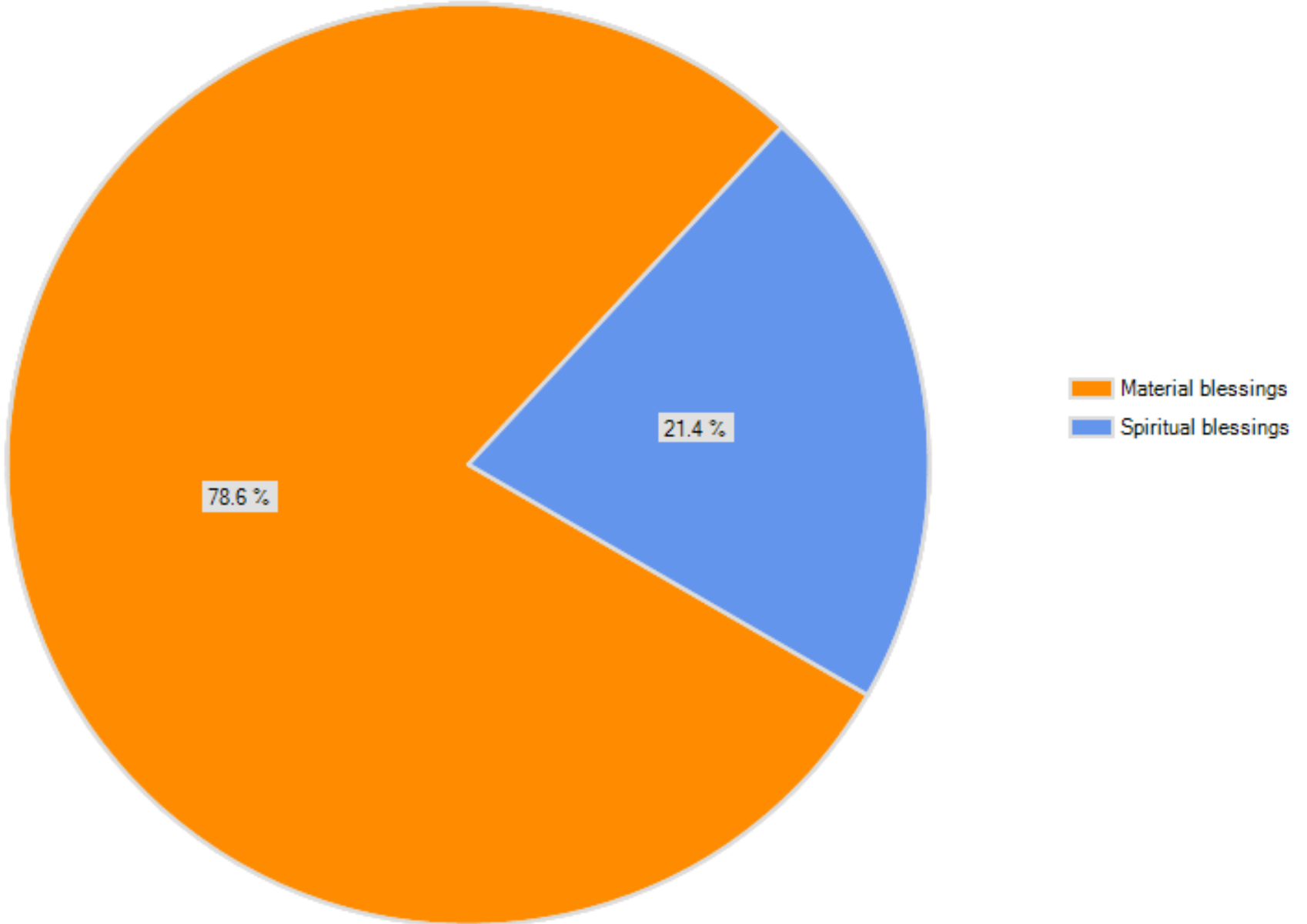
*Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." And God granted his request.*



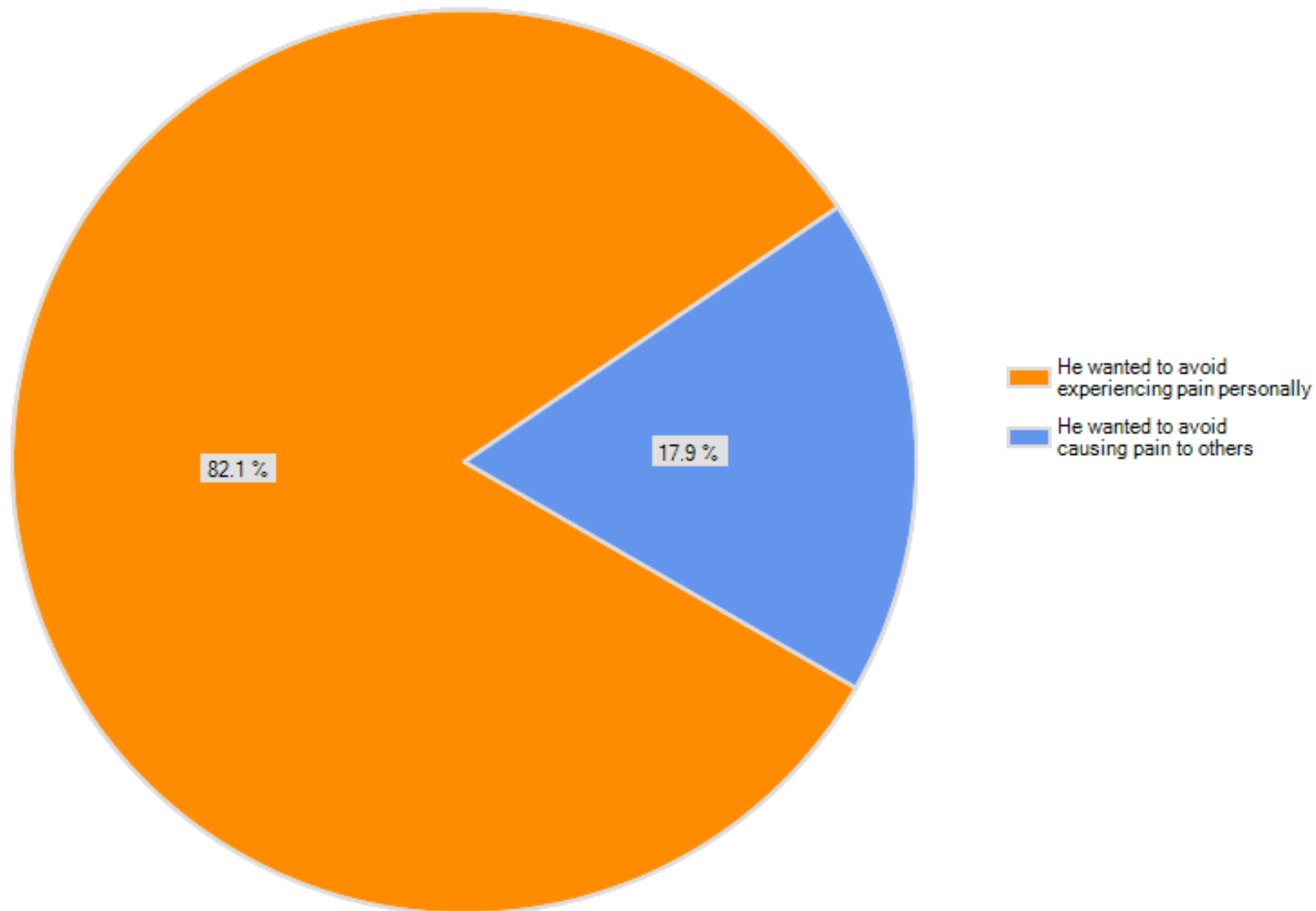
### Does Jabez' prayer sound selfish to you?



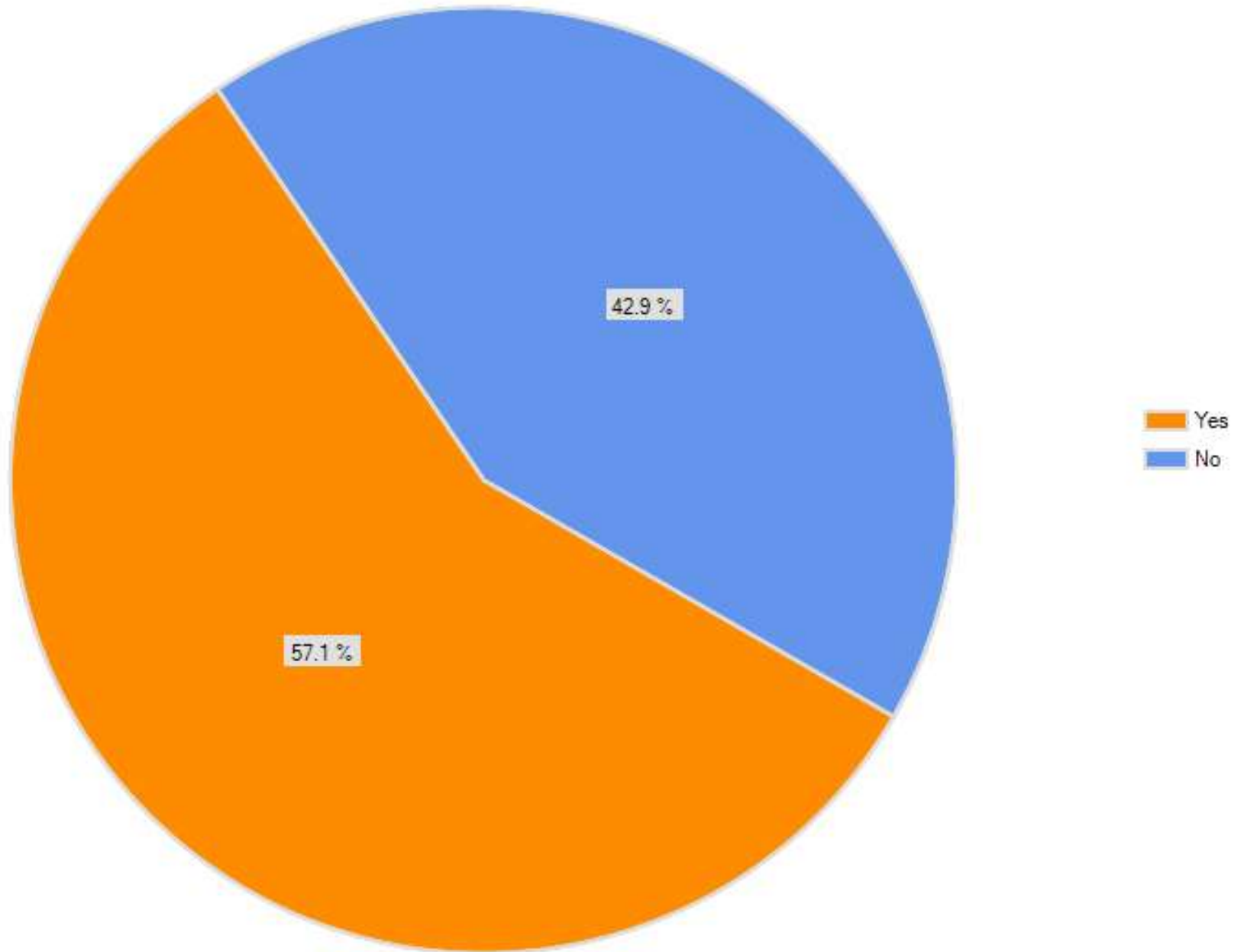
**Does his prayer sound to you like a prayer for material or spiritual blessings?**



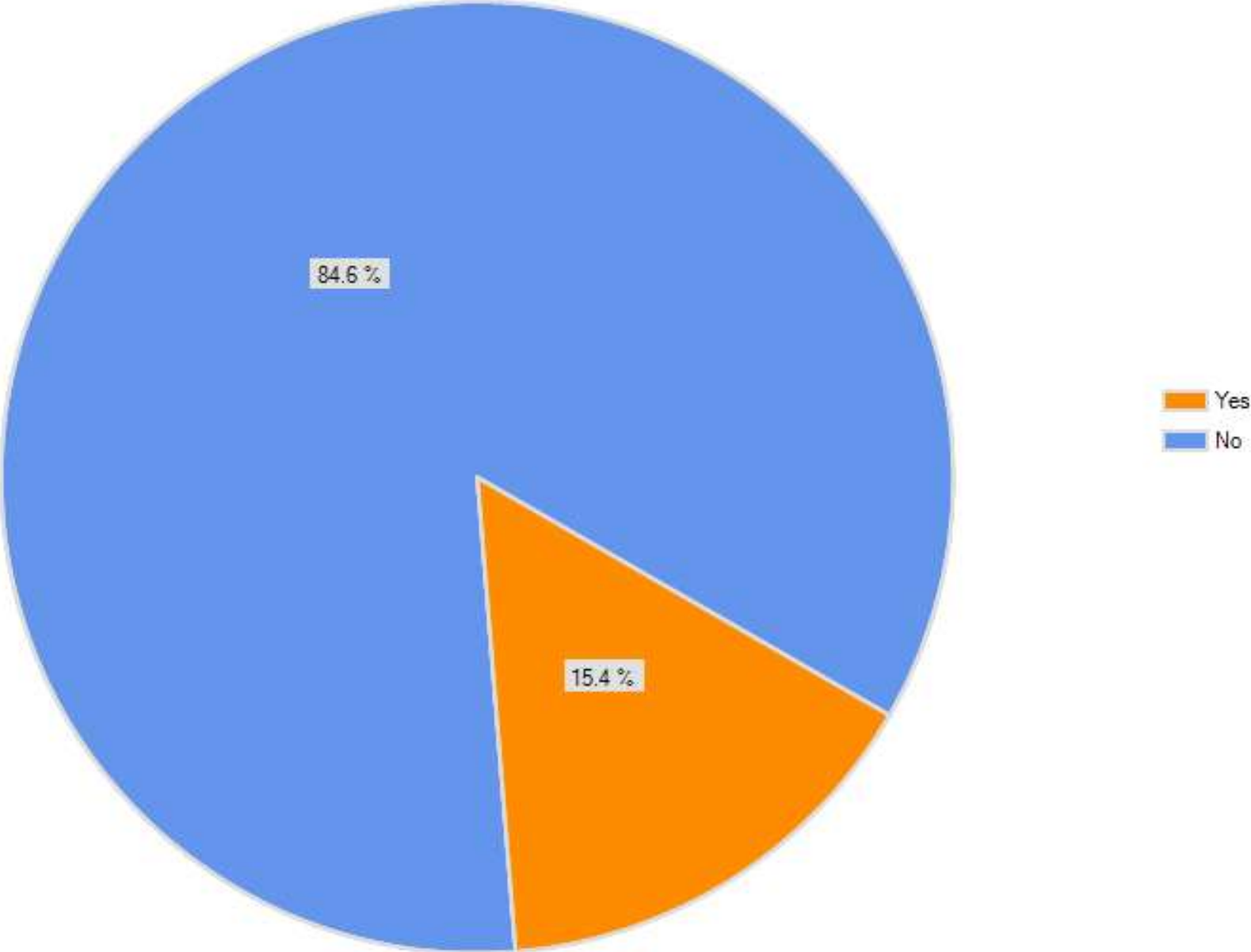
**Do you think Jabez' final request was to avoid experiencing pain personally, or to avoid causing pain to others?**



Would you feel uncomfortable praying Jabez' prayer?



Since "God gave him what he prayed for," does that mean we should count on God giving us wealth and freedom from personal pain?





# Jabez, the Man

*1 Chronicles 4:9 HCSB Jabez was more honorable than his brothers. His mother named him Jabez and said, "I gave birth to him in pain."*



# Jabez, the Man

- Descendant of Judah



# Jabez, the Man

- Descendant of Judah
- Name: “He causes pain”

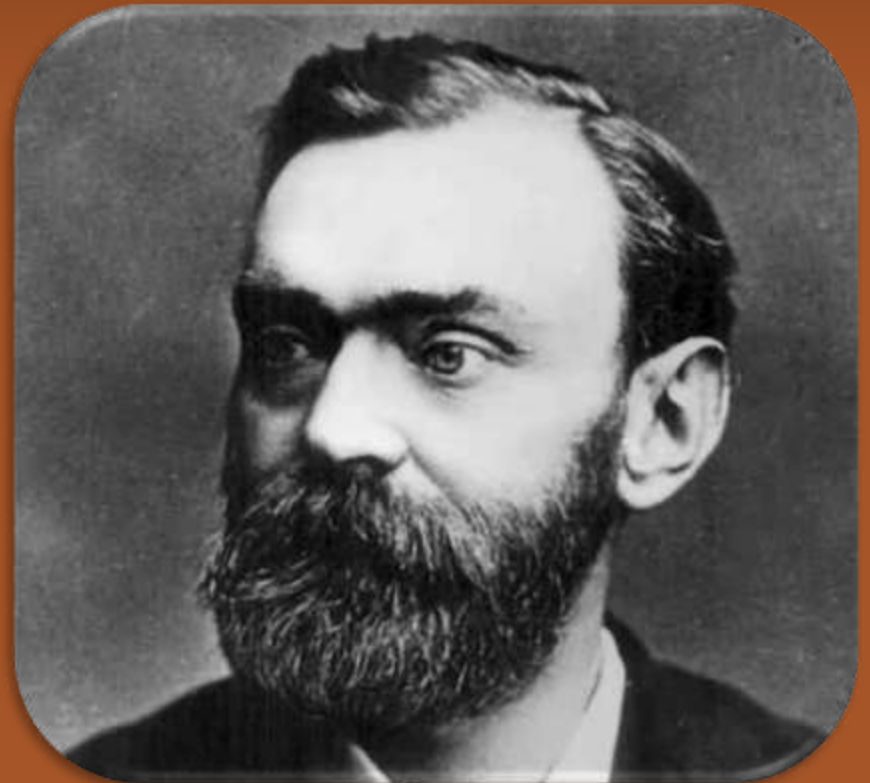
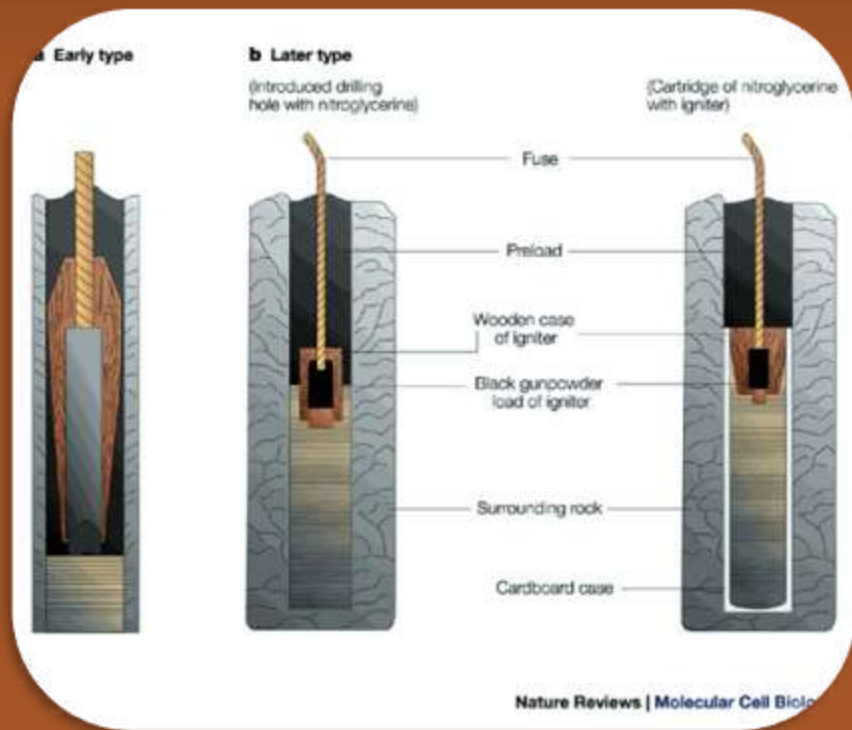


# Jabez, the Man

- Descendant of Judah
- Name: “He causes pain”
- More honorable than his brothers



# Alfred Nobel



# Jabez' Prayer – 1 Chr. 4:10

*GNB “Bless me, God, and give me much land. Be with me and keep me from anything evil that might cause me pain.”*

*HCSB “If only You would bless me, extend my border, let Your hand be with me, and keep me from harm, so that I will not cause any pain.”*

# If only You would bless me

- Jacob, his distant grandfather, had done much the same thing



# *James 1:17 NIV*

*Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.*



# *James 1:5-8 NIV*

*If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. (6) But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.*

# *James 1:5-8 NIV*

*(7) That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; (8) he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.*

# *Matthew 5:3-10 NIV*

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (4)*

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. (5) Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.*

# *Matthew 5:3-10 NIV*

*(6) Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. (7) Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. (8) Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*

# *Matthew 5:3-10 NIV*

*(9) Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. (10) Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

# Extend my border

- A favorite of modern readers
  - GNB *“give me much land.”*
  - NIV *“enlarge my territory!”*
  - HCSB *“extend my border”*



## *Matthew 19:23-24 NIV*

*Then Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. (24) Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."*

# *1 Timothy 6:9-11 NIV*

*People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. (10) For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.*



# *1 Timothy 6:9-11 NIV*

*Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. (11) But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.*

## *Exodus 34:10-12 NIV*

*Then the LORD said: "I am making a covenant with you. Before all your people I will do wonders never before done in any nation in all the world. The people you live among will see how awesome is the work that I, the LORD, will do for you.*

## *Exodus 34:10-12 NIV*

*(11) Obey what I command you today. I will drive out before you the Amorites, Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. (12) Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land where you are going, or they will be a snare among you.*

# *Exodus 34:23-24 NIV*

*Three times a year all your men are to appear before the Sovereign LORD, the God of Israel. (24) I will drive out nations before you and enlarge your territory, and no one will covet your land when you go up three times each year to appear before the LORD your God.*

# This is about God's promise

- Applied to Jabez' day:
  - Not about personal enrichment
  - Prayer to exterminate idolatry that dishonored God
- Applied to today:
  - Not personal enrichment
  - Prayer to expand Christ's kingdom

## *1 Peter 4:10-11 NIV*

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. (11) If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God.*

## *1 Peter 4:10-11 NIV*

*If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

# Let Your hand be with me

- Jabez prays for a constant sense of God's abiding presence
- Adopts Moses' prayer for ancestor, Judah, and Judah's descendants  
*(Deut. 33:7 ESV)*





## *2 Corinthians 13:14 NIV*

*May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

## *Hebrews 13:5-6 NIV*

*Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." (6) So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"*

# Keep me from evil, so that I will not cause any pain

- *GNB “keep me from anything evil that might cause me pain”*
- *HCSB “keep me from harm, so that I will not cause any pain.”*



# Keep me from evil

*Galatians 1:4 NLT Jesus gave His life for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live.*

# That I may not cause pain

*Romans 13:7-10 NIV Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.*

That I may not cause pain

*(8) Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.*

# That I may not cause pain

*(9) The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself."*

That I may not cause pain

*(10) Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*



## *James 4:1-3 NIV*

*What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? (2) You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight.*

## *James 4:1-3 NIV*

*You do not have, because you do not ask God. (3) When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.*

# God Granted His Request

- Epilogue makes the prayer of Jabez so popular and promising
- We want what we want and Jabez got what he asked for, so we figure we will ask the same way



# A good model, if understood

- It is not the greedy, rote mantra into which men have tried to transform it
- *James 5:16 NLT The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.*
- Prayer is not Get Rich Quick Plan

Oh, that You would  
bless me indeed,  
and enlarge my  
territory, that  
Your hand  
would be  
with me,  
and that  
You would  
keep me from  
evil, that I may  
not cause pain.  
~ 1 Chronicles 4:10

